Setting up of low vision centres in the country

933. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large population having low vision in the country; and

(b) if so, whether low vision centres such as one at National Association for the Blind Workshop at Bombay are likely to be set up all over the country and if so, what is the proposed time schedule of such centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) As per ICMR Survey of 1971—73, 1.4 per cent of the people were estimated to have low vision i.e. they could not see well at 6 metre distance.

(b) There is no such proposal under the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

Publication wing in ICMR

934. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICMR and some of its units have fulfledged publication wings;

(b) whether it is a fact that ICMR is lagging behind in this sphere as evidenced by publications brought out year-wise for the last few years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many of the publications available are out of date and need revisions; and

(d) if so, whether ICMR propose to create strong low-cost publication wing to meet national needs and also involve voluntary health agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Except in a few cases, none of the publications can be considered out of date. In such cases, the revised editions can be printed after the Expert Groups finalised the reports|recommendations.

(d) The Indian Council of Medical Research are working out plans to upgrade, strengthen existing facilities in institutions like National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and to establish, in a phased manner, publication and information wings in other major institutes of the Council.

The above steps are expected to take concrete shape during the 8th Plan period. The publication Divisions of the major institutes will not only deal with scientific and popular publications but also related activities like national science day exhibitions, open-houses for public etc. all of which aim to disseminate scientific information in the concerned areas of bio-medical research to the laymen.

Non-filling up of posts of Joint Commissioners in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

935. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1538 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1988 and state:

(a) what are the details of duration for which the posts of Joint Commissioners in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan remained unfilled with the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the reasons for converting one of the posts of Joint Commissioners promotional post into a selection post recently; and

(c) whether the recruitment to that post has been rushed through without exhausting possibilities of promotional postings, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) The